



Secretary

Department of Health

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Janet Lee  
Coroners Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
**Via e-mail:** [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

Dear Ms Lee

### **COR 2019 2791 – Finding into death without inquest**

Thank you for providing the finding of Coroner Ingrid Giles dated 25 October 2024 in relation to the death of EK, who passed away on 1 June 2019. I was deeply saddened to learn of EK's death and would like to convey my condolences to his loved ones.

Coroner Giles made one recommendation as follows:

*That the Secretary of the Department of Justice and Community Safety, in tandem with the Secretary of the Department of Health, explore the development of a program in contact with relevant health experts, to support mental health and coping mechanisms with the view to reduce suicidality among Victorian persons who are under investigation for alleged sexual offences.*

The Department of Health (the department) has met with its counterparts at the Department of Justice and Community Safety at officer-level in relation to the coroner's recommendation, and notes that consideration of the recommendation is already underway under the auspices of the department's *Victorian suicide prevention and response strategy 2024-34* (the strategy).

The strategy aims to build a systems-based, evidence-informed, whole-of-government and community-wide approach to suicide prevention and response. It has been developed together with people with a lived or living experience of suicide and was shaped by extensive consultation with clinicians, people who work with people disproportionately impacted by suicide and other experts in the field. To support successful delivery and implementation, an accountability framework and rolling implementation plans accompany the strategy.

The strategy's *Priority area 1: Build and support connected systems*, provides an approach for addressing the coroner's recommendation. An objective of this priority area is to *explore integration opportunities and new ways of working that support people through transition points such as entering or being released from correctional settings, exiting out-of-home care, finishing or disengaging from education and vocational settings, engaging with aged or supported care services and exiting military service.*

The *First implementation plan 2024-26* includes an initiative that responds to this objective, being Initiative 1.7 which is to build an understanding of connections between family

violence, sexual offending and suicide to identify key intervention points to support coordinated prevention and response efforts, including opportunities to strengthen referral pathways and service responses. In delivering this initiative, the department will work in partnership with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and Victoria Police.


It may be possible to consider suicide prevention activities for people under investigation for alleged sexual offences within the scope of this initiative. Victoria Police is responsible for the policies and procedures relevant to people under investigation for alleged sexual offences. The department will engage with the Department of Justice and Community Safety and Victoria Police in scoping Initiative 1.7 and, subject to resourcing, explore ways to help to reduce suicidality in people who are under investigation for alleged sexual offences.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Bailey Nation-Ingle, State Suicide Prevention and Response Adviser at the department at

████████████████████ I understand that the Department of Justice and Community Safety will provide a relevant contact for its department in its response.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Euan M Wallace', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Professor Euan M Wallace AM**  
Secretary

14/01/2025